

ANCO FAX News

Association of Northern California Oncologists
Post Office Box 151109, San Rafael, California 94915-1109
Voice: (415) 472-3960 • FAX: (415) 472-3961
execdir@anco-online.org • www.anco-online.org

Vol. 9, No. 14

July 9th, 2010

INTRODUCTION

The *ANCO FAX News* focuses on ANCO's core activities—advocacy, clinical and professional education, membership benefits, and *Association* news. While membership mailings, FAX broadcasts, and ListServ postings continue, the *ANCO FAX News* summarizes this information in a regular forum of important news to members. Contact the ANCO office for additional information regarding any item published in the *ANCO FAX News* or to contribute items.

The *ANCO FAX News* is FAXed to Individual Member practices, and e-mailed to Group, Institutional, and Corporate (contacts) Members. The next regular *ANCO FAX News* will be published on July 23rd. Send your comments or contributions to ANCO, P.O. Box 151109, San Rafael, CA 94915-1109; Voice: (415) 472-3960; FAX: (415) 472-3961; execdir@anco-online.org.

ADVOCACY

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO meets regularly with national, regional, and statewide organizations to discuss issues of importance to hematology/oncology practices and people living with cancer. We continually seek input from members on agenda items for these meetings. Send your issues to the ANCO office.]

ACCC, ASCO, ASH, and National Legislative & Regulatory Issues

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO is a member of the *Association of Community Cancer Centers* (ACCC) and a state/regional affiliate of the *American Society of Clinical Oncology* (ASCO).

ANCO and the *American Society of Hematology* (ASH) share information with members. We regularly participate with these organizations on matters of national importance to cancer care.]

On June 25th, President Obama signed into law the *Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010*. This law establishes a 2.2% update to the *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule* (MPFS) payment rates retroactive to June 1st through November 30th. CMS then directed Medicare claims

**There is information in the
ANCO FAX News
for every member of your practice
or organization.
Pass it along!**

- Physician Members
- Nurses & Office Managers
- Office Staff
- Colleagues & Representatives

The *Association of Northern California Oncologists* (ANCO) is an association of hematologists/oncologists dedicated to promoting high professional standards of cancer care by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, data, and knowledge. The material contained in the *ANCO FAX News* is intended as general information for ANCO members. Because diagnostic, treatment, contracting, coding, and billing decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, any such information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* may not apply in any given situation. Members are encouraged to contact their own consultants or advisors to obtain specific advice on matters relating to contracting, coding, and billing. The information contained in the *ANCO FAX News* should not be used as a substitute for such advice.

administration contractors to discontinue processing claims at the negative update rates and to temporarily hold all claims for services rendered June 1st and later until the new 2.2% update rates were tested and loaded into the Medicare contractors' claims processing systems. Effective testing of the new 2.2% update would ensure that claims would be correctly paid at the new rates. CMS expected to begin processing claims at the new rates no later than July 1st. Claims containing June 2010 dates of service that have been paid at the negative update rates will be reprocessed as soon as possible. Under current law, Medicare payments to physicians and other providers paid under the MPFS are based upon the lesser of the submitted charge on the claim or the MPFS amount. Claims containing June dates of service that were submitted with charges greater than or equal to the new 2.2% update rates will be automatically reprocessed. Affected physicians/providers who submitted claims containing June dates of service with charges less than the 2.2% update amount must contact their local Medicare contractor to request an adjustment.

A proposed rule from CMS includes a provision that could impose an additional 6.1% reduction to Medicare's physician reimbursement rates beginning in 2011. Unless *Congress* alters the sustainable growth rate formula or acts to avert the cuts, physicians essentially would face a 23.5% reduction in Medicare payments beginning in December. The proposed rule, which includes provisions related to the implementation of health reform, is open to comment until August 24th. CMS is expected to issue a final rule by November 1st. All major national cancer care organizations are currently analyzing the proposal for its impact on oncology services.

Effective July 30th when billing Medicare for all drugs (except those provided under the *Competitive Acquisition Program* for Part B drugs and biologicals), CMS has instructed providers via *MedLearn Matters* MM6711 (www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6711.pdf) to **use the JW modifier to identify unused drugs or biologicals from single-use vials or single-use packages that are appropriately discarded.** This modifier, billed on a separate line, will provide

payment for the discarded drug or biological.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has extended its enforcement date (to December 31st) of its ruling that would consider physicians who regularly bill their patients (including co-payments and coinsurance) to be creditors. On June 25th, it was announced that the FTC had reached a joint legal stipulation with three medical societies that had filed a lawsuit against the agency stating that it would not pursue enforcement of the rule until after the *U. S. Court of Appeals* in Washington reviews a trial court decision in which the *American Bar Association* successfully blocked implementation of the rule for legal offices. *Congress* is currently considering legislation (HR3763/S3416) that would exempt physicians from this rule. **The American Medical Association has developed guidance material** (available at www.ama-assn.org/ama/no-index/physician-resources/red-flags-rule.shtml) to help physicians comply with the *Rule*. **The California Medical Association (CMA) has published a tool kit to help physicians and their staffs understand the scope and requirements of the Red Flag Rule.** The tool kit provides guidance on designing and implementing an identity theft detection and prevention program for the physician practice. CMA's *Red Flag Rule Tool Kit* is free to members at the members-only website. **For a primer on the FTC's Red Flag Rule, please see the article at www.anco-online.org/RedFlagRule.pdf.** ANCO has also arranged for *Risk Mitigation Solutions* to offer compliance services to members (visit www.anco-online.org/RiskMitigationSolutions.pdf).

CMS's Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) provides a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality-reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set of quality measures on claims may earn a lump sum bonus payment. CMS has posted updated 2010 PQRI educational products to the PQRI webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI. In addition, an updated list of registries that have become "qualified" to submit quality data to CMS on behalf of their eligible professionals for 2010 PQRI and eRx reporting and an updated list of EHR vendors and their programs that have been

“qualified” to submit quality data to CMS by eligible professionals for 2010 PQRI reporting are now available on the *Alternative Reporting Mechanisms* page of the PQRI website. **The American Medical Association (AMA) has posted PQRI participation tools** at www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/clinical-practice-improvement/clinical-quality/participation-tools-individual.shtml. In addition, ASCO’s PQRI website (www.asco.org/ASCOv2/Public+Policy/Policy+Issues/Medicare+%26+Quality+Care/Regulations+%26+Resources/Information/Physician+Quality+Reporting+Initiative+%28PQRI%29+General+Information?cpsextcurrchannel=1) includes relevant links and oncology-specific information.

CMS has posted updated 2010 *Electronic Prescribing Incentive (eRx) Program* educational products to the eRx webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/ERxIncentive. For additional oncology-specific information, visit ASCO’s e-prescribing website at www.asco.org/eprescribing.

Electronic health records (EHRs) are powerful tools that can streamline practice management and reduce errors in patient care. The 2009 *Federal* economic stimulus package includes \$19B for health information technology (HIT), the vast majority of which will be directed to physicians to subsidize the purchase and usage of electronic health record (EHR) systems. Beginning in 2011, qualifying Medicare providers stand to gain up to \$44,000 under the program; qualifying MediCal providers stand to receive as much as \$64,000. A CMS website (www.cms.hhs.gov/Recovery/11_HealthIT.asp) is now available where you can find information pertaining to the Medicare and Medicaid incentives for EHR adoption. **ASCO has identified the EHR as an important vehicle for advancing the quality of cancer care.** The *Oncology Electronic Health Record Field Guide: Selecting and Implementing an EHR* serves as the only comprehensive, oncology-specific handbook on the market. The *EHR Field Guide* has been developed to equip practitioners with the information and resources needed to select and implement current and future EHRs for clinical practice and management as well as quality-of-

care measurement and improvement. An essential resource for evaluating and selecting EHRs, the *EHR Field Guide* includes:

- Core functions of an oncology EHR
- EHR selection and making the right choice
- EHR implementation and customization
- Ongoing EHR management and best practices

To purchase your copy of the *EHR Field Guide*, visit www.asco.org/ehrfieldduide. ASCO has developed an EHR social networking site (ehr.ascoexchange.org) to help oncologists and their practice staff connect and collaborate with other users of EHRs, as well as find information on EHRs and other health information technology tools. The *California Medical Association (CMA)* has established a *Health Information Technology (HIT) Resource Center* on its website designed to educate physicians about the HIT subsidies for physicians in the *Federal stimulus package*. Visit www.cmanet.org/hit for the latest information focusing on materials to help physicians assess their HIT needs and begin the process of choosing an EHR system that works best for their practices and qualifies them to receive the *Federal* funds. The *California Health Information Partnership & Services Organization (CalHIPSO; www.calhipso.org)* is a joint venture between the *California Primary Care Association*, the *California Medical Association*, and the *California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems* that has been allocated a total of \$17.3M by the *United States Department of Health and Human Services* for helping primary care doctors and other health providers purchase and use technology for electronic health records. CalHIPSO plans to begin enrolling doctors for services to help them buy and install EHR systems and will also begin offering EHR technology packages to doctors at a discount in the next couple of months. The *California Medical Association* plans to offer several EHR systems at a cost savings as well that meet CMS standards.

ANCO and ASCO continue to work towards ensuring that people with cancer have access to quality cancer care in the community. Practice

resources are available at www.anco-online.org/mma.html and www.asco.org/mma, including:

- ASCO's *Adapting to Changes in Medicare 2010 PowerPoint* presentation.
- 2010 quarterly updates to the *Average Sales Price* (ASP) Medicare Part B drugs pricing file.

Members may also submit an inquiry to ASCO's *Coding & Reimbursement Hotline* at www.asco.org/billingcoding > member. You must enter your ASCO member ID to send your inquiry.

CMA, MOASC, and State Legislative & Regulatory Issues

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO and the *Medical Oncology Association of Southern California* (MOASC) are members of the *California Medical Association's* (CMA) *Council on Legislation, House of Delegates*, and specialty delegation. ANCO and MOASC coordinate advocacy activities in California.]

Noteware Government Relations represents ANCO (and MOASC) in Sacramento. They report:

- Many insurers are attempting to rate physicians based on quality or cost measures without their consent. AB2533 requires health plans or any third party contracted by the health plan to conduct a quality-rating program for a health plan to disclose a description of the policies and procedures related to the rating. AB2533 is supported by the CMA and is pending in the *Senate Appropriations Committee*.

The *California Oncology Political Action Committee* (or CalCancerPAC), formed by ANCO and MOASC, supports candidates sensitive to the needs of hematologists/oncologists and people living with cancer in California. ANCO membership dues include a contribution to CalCancerPAC.

Sacramento can be a dangerous place for doctors. Many bills impacting medicine wind their way through the *Capitol* on their journey to the *Governor's* desk. And, many of these bills threaten the medical profession with the backing of powerful lobbyists and PACs. It's critical that **physicians have an advocate at work for them**

every day and who knows how to speak on their behalf. That advocate is the *California Medical Association* (CMA). While physicians keep a close eye on their patients, CMA is keeping a close eye on those bills...and more. **Got payment delays? Feeling victimized by payors and overwhelmed by the process? Don't let the health plans mistreat you.** The CMA's *Center for Economic Services* has a team of reimbursement specialists available to assist ANCO's CMA members experiencing payment problems with third-party payors. For membership, contact Ron Lopp at (916) 551-2042 or rlopp@cmanet.org; for reimbursement assistance, call CMA's *Reimbursement Helpline* at (888) 401-5911.

The *CMA Practice Resources* (CPR) is a monthly e-mail bulletin from CMA's *Center for Economic Services* that is full of tips and tools to help physicians and their office staff improve practice efficiency and viability. Subscribing to CPR is free and open to anyone, but CMA membership is necessary to access the resources, toolkits, forms, and tools that are located on the members-only CMA website. The current issue includes:

- Identify and Fight Unfair Payment Practices
- Unfair Payment Practices: Failure to Disclose Complete Fee Schedule and Payment Rules
- Blue Cross Announces Changes to Prudent Buyer Contract
- Ask the Expert: Fee Schedule Disclosure
- Coding Corner: Use of Modifier -25
- Health Plan Provider Newsletters

Visit www.cmanet.org/news/cpr to subscribe.

To help physicians negotiate and manage complex third-party payor agreements, CMA has published a contracting tool kit entitled *Taking Charge: Steps to Evaluating Relationships and Preparing for Negotiations—A Focus on Payor Contracting* that is available free to CMA members at the members-only website. Nonmembers can purchase the tool kit for \$100 in the CMA bookstore (call (800) 882-1262). This tool kit joins several other CMA tool kits (i.e., *Back to Basics: A*

Step-by-Step Guide to Maximizing Your Cash Flow, Getting Paid: Strategies to Maximize Reimbursement) aimed at empowering physician practices vis-à-vis their relationships with private payors.

The 2010 California Physician's Legal Handbook (CPLH) is now available. CPLH—an annual publication of CMA's *Center for Legal Affairs*—answers medical-legal questions most frequently asked by physicians. CPLH 2010 offers more than 4,500 pages of comprehensive legal information including current laws, regulations, and court decisions related to medical practice in California. The *Handbook* is available in a seven-volume print format and on CD-ROM. The CD-ROM offers all the content of the print version, plus many enhancements, including fully searchable content and hyperlinks that let you navigate within the CD-ROM and onto the web, as well as links to Findlaw for information on the cited court cases. The CD-ROM is priced at \$398 for members (\$480 for nonmembers), the print version costs \$798 (\$960 for nonmembers), and the CD-ROM/print combo version costs \$898 (\$1,080 for nonmembers). To place an order, visit www.cmanet.org/bookstore/product.cfm?catid=10&productid=163 or call (800) 882-1262. CMA members can access most of the CPLH content free via CMA On-Call, CMA's online library of medical-legal information, at the members-only website.

Palmetto/J1MAC, DHCS/MediCal, & Private Payors

[Editor's Note: ANCO communicates regularly with Palmetto/J1MAC that administers the J1MAC (Medicare) in California, and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) that administers DHCS/MediCal in California.]

Physicians who have not updated their Medicare enrollment information in the past five years may need to fill out another application or risk facing payment problems for ordered or referred services. Under new rules, which took effect July 6th, Medicare is authorized to reject claims if an ordering or referring physician is not identified in Medicare's Internet-based PECOS enrollment system. Thousands of otherwise acceptable Medicare claims could go unpaid merely because they were submitted by providers who enrolled in Medicare before the PECOS database was

developed. *However, CMS will, for the time being, not implement changes that would automatically reject claims based on orders, certifications, and referrals made by providers that have not yet had their applications approved by July 6th.* Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/86HQZQ7533?opendocument for more information. Don't know if you are in PECOS? CMA has developed a step-by-step guide to walk you through the process, from determining if you are already in PECOS to accessing the Internet-based PECOS enrollment system. This guide is available to members only at the members-only website. Or, visit www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/.

Palmetto/J1MAC's 2010 Coding & Reimbursement Update contains a wealth of information that will be helpful to your office, including additions, deletions, and changes for HCPCS; CDT; CPT codes and modifiers; and, proper use of modifiers. Visit [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/2010_Coding_&_Reimbursement_Update_Part_B_J1.pdf/\\$File/2010_Coding_&_Reimbursement_Update_Part_B_J1.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/2010_Coding_&_Reimbursement_Update_Part_B_J1.pdf/$File/2010_Coding_&_Reimbursement_Update_Part_B_J1.pdf) to download your copy.

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 established the Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) program to identify fraud and waste in the Medicare system. Audit contractors are expected to focus on companies and individuals whose billings for specific Medicare services are higher than the majority of providers in their communities. Auditors cannot request more than 10 patient records from a practice in any 45-day period. The *California Medical Association* (CMA) has developed a tool kit to help physicians understand the program and, if necessary, navigate the audit process. The tool kit is available free to CMA members. Palmetto/J1MAC has published an article entitled *Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Program* and added a new RAC category under *Articles* on the Palmetto/J1MAC website. Visit www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/providers.nsf/vMasterDID/7T6K7W3608?opendocument or www.anco-online.org/MedicareRACs.pdf for more information on the RAC program. **HealthDataInsights (HDI), the Medicare RAC**

for Region D (that includes California), has posted the CMS-approved audit issues for RAC review at racinfo.healthdatainsights.com.

Palmetto/J1MAC's July *Medicare Advisory* is available at [www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_July2010.pdf/\\$File/j1_medicare_advisory_July2010.pdf](http://www.palmettogba.com/Palmetto/Providers.nsf/files/j1_medicare_advisory_July2010.pdf/$File/j1_medicare_advisory_July2010.pdf). Of specific relevance to oncology, the current edition features:

- General Appeals Information
- Quarterly Update to **Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits**
- **Drugs and Biologicals:** Provenge
- Updated Form CMS 1500 Information
- Part B LCD Update
- The 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule
- Revisions to the **Self-Administered Drugs Exclusion List 2010**

Did you know that the California has a quick, easy, and free way for physicians to get help with claims payment problems? The *Department of Managed Health Care's (DMHC) Provider Complaint Unit (PCU)* has recovered more than \$16M in additional payments owed by health plans to physicians since it was created in 2005. The DMHC PCU was created as an alternative way for physicians to resolve claims payment issues without having to go to court. An online *Provider Complaint System* evaluates claim reimbursement disputes such as timely submission and payment of claims, failure to pay according to contracts, coding disputes, and enforcement of the provider bill of rights. The PCU investigates and addresses individual claims problems and also systemic unfair payment or billing patterns among health plans. The DMHC is the *State* agency that regulates all California HMOs, and *Anthem Blue Cross* and *Blue Shield PPOs*. If you are a physician and would like to report a problem regarding claims payment, please contact DMHC at (877) 525-1295 or visit www.healthhelp.ca.gov. DMHC is especially interested in current preauthorization/certification, claims processing, and payment problems facing the hematology/oncology community. Visit www.anco-online.org/Resources.pdf for specific instructions on how to

report your issues to DMHC. The independent dispute resolution process is described at dmhc.ca.gov/providers/clm/clm_idrp.aspx. Practices can review past DMHC enforcement actions at www.hmohelp.ca.gov/healthplans/enf/enf_default.aspx; or past independent medical review findings at www.hmohelp.ca.gov/dmhc_consumer/pc/pc_imrdec.aspx.

EDUCATION

[*Editor's Note:* ANCO organizes clinical and professional education meetings throughout the year and throughout Northern California.]

Washington Update: Legislative/Regulatory Impact on Oncology Practice

ANCO is pleased to present a *Washington Update: Legislative/Regulatory Impact on Oncology Practice* with Joseph S. Bailes, M.D., *Co-Chair, ASCO Government Relations Council*, on July 15th at 5:30PM at *The Palace Hotel* in San Francisco. This is the evening before ASCO's *Best of ASCO* meeting starts. A copy of the meeting announcement and registration form was mailed to all ANCO members the first week in June. Visit www.anco.org/washington2010.html for more information.

ASCO's Best of ASCO

ASCO's *2010 Best of ASCO* takes place at *The Palace Hotel* in San Francisco on July 16-17th. This meeting will feature the premier abstracts in sessions on breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and lung cancers, and malignant hematology from the *ASCO Annual Meeting* that represent the most relevant and timely research in oncology today. Visit boa2010.asco.org/BestofASCOSanFrancisco.aspx for more information.

6th Annual Oncology Congress



The *6th Annual Oncology Congress* will take place October 15-17th at *The Palace Hotel* in San Francisco. This event is an interactive CME

conference providing practicing oncologists with the latest clinical data, best practices, and new technologies that are directly applicable to the practice of oncology today. Discounted ANCO physician member and nurse registration is available by using priority code ANCO at oncologycongress.com/en/San-Francisco-CA.

Additional Education Meetings

Other meetings of possible interest to ANCO member practices are:

July 13th

The Eighth Annual Cancer Survivorship Series: Living With, Through, and Beyond Cancer, Part IV—Survivors Too, Communicating With and Among Family, Friends, and Loved Ones
CancerCare

Telephone Education Workshop

July 19-20th

RAC-ADR Boot Camp
California Hospice & Palliative Care Association
Long Beach

July 27-29th

National Latino Cancer Summit/Cumbre Nacional de Latinos y el Cáncer
Cancer Prevention Institute of California
San Francisco

August 11th

Advances in the Treatment of Multiple Myeloma
CancerCare
Telephone Education Workshop

August 11-12th

Cancer Pain Forum: Complete Cancer Pain Management—Integrating Interventional Pain and Supportive Care
Napa Pain Institute and Health Roots
Napa

Please contact the ANCO office for more information about these meetings.

- a general description and introduction to the *Association*, its activities, leadership, and membership benefits.
- advocacy information (including ANCO and ASCO Medicare resources).
- clinical and professional education meeting announcements and distributed materials.
- survey reports, publications, ListServ, and Weblog.
- clinical trials information.
- links to affiliated organizations.
- updated physician, nurse, manager, and patient resources.
- updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.

ANCO Online ListServ

The ANCO *Online ListServ* is available to all ANCO physician members, nurses, practice managers, and Corporate Member representatives. It is a source for the latest ANCO news and other information impacting hematology/oncology practices. To subscribe to the ANCO *Online ListServ*, send an e-mail to ListServ@anco-online.org.

The ANCO *Online Weblog* posts and archives important news sent on the *ListServ* for hematology/oncology practices on a regular basis. Among the additional news topics covered at anco-online.blogspot.com are:

- ACCC Connect
- ASH Practice Updates
- CMA Alerts
- CMS/Medicare Website Updates
- DHCS/MediCal Updates
- Palmetto/J1MAC Website Updates

MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

ANCO Online

ANCO's website, www.anco-online.org, features:

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Board of Directors

The ANCO *Board of Directors* teleconferenced on July 1st to discuss and/or act upon the following issues:

- Medicare *Physician Fee Schedule*
- *New York Times* article on *Health Affairs* study
- California Advocacy Updates
- *Blue Shield* Coverage Policies (Fosaprepitant)
- Clinical & Professional Educational Programs
- ANCO & Payer-Provider Partnerships

Contact the ANCO office for additional information on any of these items.

The ANCO *Board of Directors* meets regularly by teleconference and occasionally in person to discuss issues affecting the *Association*, clinical and professional education, and ways to better serve the membership. *Board* meetings are open to individual physician members. The **next regularly scheduled ANCO Board of Directors teleconference** will take place on August 19th. Please call José Luis González, *ANCO Executive Director*, at (415) 472-3960 if you wish to participate in a future meeting.

Individual Member News

thesecondopinion (www.thesecondopinion.org) seeks medical and radiation oncologists specializing in urology, gynecologic oncology, breast cancer, head and neck cancer, and thoracic cancer to serve on multidisciplinary panels providing free second opinions to patients. For more information on how you can volunteer call (415) 775-9956 or e-mail mail@thesecondopinion.org.

Need vacation coverage? Mike Turbow, M.D., ANCO member, *Past President*, and **retired oncologist, is interested in doing locum tenens**. Contact Dr. Turbow at mturbowmd@mac.com or (650) 759-9861.

The ANCO Directory of Members 2010 will be posted online on July 12th at www.anco-online.org/pubs.html. We urge all ANCO members to download and print their own edition of *The ANCO Directory of Members 2010*. The online edition will be regularly updated. Therefore, please verify your *Directory* entry and contact the ANCO office with any corrections, additions, and/or deletions.

Group Member News

ANCO initiated a **Group Membership** in 2008 based on a mutual set of perceived values and benefits and a mutual set of interests. The ANCO *Board* believes that the *Association* and *The Permanente Medical Group* (TPMG) will each receive value from Group Membership. ANCO thanks *The Permanente Medical Group* for joining ANCO.

Institutional Member News

ANCO initiated an **Institutional Membership** in 2002. *Department(s) of Hematology and/or Oncology* of accredited, degree-granting teaching universities or research institutions are eligible for institutional membership. ANCO thanks the following Institutional Members for their support:

- *Stanford University Medical Oncology*
- *University of California, Davis, Cancer Center*
- *University of California, San Francisco*

For information on **continuing medical education meetings organized by our Institutional Members**, please visit:

- med.stanford.edu/seminars/cmecalendar.do
- www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cme/conferences
- www.cme.ucsf.edu/cme

Corporate Member News

ANCO thanks the following **Corporate Members** for their generous support that enables ANCO to provide services to the hematology/oncology community in Northern California, and to provide its members and their patients with substantial benefits in the areas of advocacy, education, and information dissemination:

Abraxis BioScience • *Agendia*
Alexion Pharmaceuticals • *Allos Therapeutics*
AMGEN • *AstraZeneca*
Bayer Healthcare/Onyx Pharmaceuticals
biogenIDEC • *bioTheranostics*
Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology
Celgene • *Centocor Ortho Biotech*
Cephalon Oncology • *Eisai*

Genentech BioOncology
Genomic Health • Genzyme Oncology
Lash Group Healthcare Consultants
Lilly Oncology • Merck • Millennium
Novartis Oncology
Oncology Supply/ION • OSI Pharmaceuticals
Onmark,
a McKesson Specialty Care Solutions Company
Pathwork Diagnostics • Pfizer Oncology
Response Genetics • Sanofi Aventis Oncology
Spectrum Pharmaceuticals
US Oncology Physician Services • Vidacare

We especially wish to thank and welcome *bioTheranostics* as a new Corporate Member in 2010. *Alaven* and *Enzon Pharmaceuticals* did not renew their Corporate Memberships for 2010.

Please visit www.anco-online.org/assistance.html for **updated Corporate Member drug reimbursement and patient assistance program information.**

Abraxis BioScience informs ANCO that CMS has corrected an error in the Q32010 Medicare reimbursement allowable for Abraxane (J9264). CMS has posted a revised file (at www.cms.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a19_2010aspfiles.asp#TopOffPage) that shows the updated Medicare Q32010 ASP+6% allowable for Abraxane as \$9.399 per 1mg.

AstraZeneca informs ANCO that it has established a new patient support program for postmenopausal women with hormone receptor-positive early breast cancer who are prescribed ARIMIDEX. The program is designed to provide eligible patients with instant discounts, potentially saving the patient up to \$300. The process to receive an ARIMIDEX Savings Card entails no paperwork for patients. Patients can contact their health care provider and then check eligibility requirements by calling the *AstraZeneca Information Center* at (800) 236-9933, Monday to Friday from 8AM to 6PM ET, excluding holidays. If eligible, patients can obtain an ARIMIDEX Savings Card from their health care provider or from the *AstraZeneca Information Center*. In addition, by the end of July, patients will be able to download the ARIMIDEX Savings Card on www.inyourcorner.com.

Onmark informs ANCO that its monthly legislative teleconference will take place on July 20th and 21st at 10AM PT. To join the teleconference, dial (888) 587-0612.

Sanofi Aventis Oncology informs ANCO that *United States Food and Drug Administration* approved Jevtana for use in combination with prednisone for treatment of patients with metastatic hormone-refractory prostate cancer (mHRPC) previously treated with a docetaxel-containing regimen.

Clinical Trial News

UCSF's BreastCancerTrials.org is a free, non-profit website and clinical trial matching service exclusively dedicated to breast cancer. It is intended to be an easy-to-use, one-stop solution to finding a breast cancer clinical trial. Patients looking for trials may enter detailed information about their cancer history into a completely confidential and secure online database. The patient's *Personal Health Record* (PHR) is used to match the patient with breast cancer trials that medical researchers have registered with BCT. Visit www.breastcancertrials.org for more information.

ANCO members can search information about Institutional Member's clinical trials via www.anco-online.org/trials.html.

Kaiser Permanente's cancer clinical trials program in Northern California is affiliated with several national cooperative research groups, including the *National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project* (NSABP), *Southwest Oncology Group* (SWOG), *Radiation Therapy Oncology Group* (RTOG), and *Clinical Trials Support Unit* (CTSU). For more information about *Kaiser Permanente's* clinical trials program at the Santa Clara campus, please visit www.kpsantaclaracancercare.org/clinical_trials/.

Learn more about California's law requiring the coverage of routine care costs for patients enrolled in clinical trials at www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cancer/clinical_trials/bigc/ where you can download ANCO's patient education brochure on SB37.

Patient News

ASCO is pleased to announce the publication of *Art of Oncology: Honest and Compassionate Responses to the Daily Struggles of People Living with Cancer* edited by Charles L. Loprinzi, M.D. *Art of Oncology* is a collection of 30 brief articles that address issues related to end-of-life care, symptom control, ethics, and communication with patients. In these heartfelt pieces, doctors reveal how they respond to the personal needs of people with cancer; how to be honest with patients about their condition; how to be realistic but simultaneously hopeful; how to answer the difficult question of "How much time do I have left?" The essays collected in *Art of Oncology* first appeared in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

The *Stanford University School of Medicine* is sponsoring an online program and study with support from the *Stanford Cancer Center* that teaches the skills needed in the day-to-day management of life after cancer and gives patients skills to take control of their health. Patients will learn ways to manage fatigue, difficult emotions, and after effects of cancer treatment. The program/study is now recruiting and enrolling patients. For more information and to enroll, visit cancersurvivors.stanford.edu (or call Katy Plant, *Study Manager* at 800-366-2624, cancersurvivors@stanford.edu).

Publications, Resources, Services, & Surveys

ANCO and *SullivanLuallin* have cooperated on *Patient Satisfaction Surveys* for the past several years. Another *Patient Satisfaction Survey* will be offered in 2010. ANCO is using its negotiating leverage to offer you expert and reliable *Patient Satisfaction Surveys* at steep discounts. ANCO will fund the set-up fee so that members may participate at discounted per physician rates. An announcement of the *Patient Satisfaction Survey* was mailed and FAXed to all ANCO community-based member practices in May. For more information, visit www.anco-online.org/pxsrvy.html.

ASCO and the *State/Regional Affiliate Program* are excited to introduce *Oncology Practice* at

practice.ascoexchange.org, a social networking site where practice administrators can easily connect, collaborate, and exchange information about day-to-day issues facing oncology practice. Enroll in *Oncology Practice* at practice.ascoexchange.org.

ASCO's *Oncology Practice Insider* is an interactive biweekly communication specifically devoted to oncology practice management issues and for practice managers. Subscribe to the *Oncology Practice Insider* via e-mail to practice@asco.org. The current issue features:

- ASCO Members Appointed to Serve on CCHIT Oncology Work Group

ASCO's *Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI)* is designed to promote excellence in cancer care by helping oncologists create a culture of self-examination and improvement. ASCO is now offering the QOPI Certification Program to recognize QOPI participants who achieve rigorous standards for cancer care. The QOPI Certification designation can be used by certified practices to demonstrate an advanced commitment to quality. For more information or to register, go to qopi.asco.org.

The *Community Oncology Alliance's (COA) Administrators' Network (CAN) website* is available at communityoncology.info. Bobbi Buell is the CAN Web Mistress. The site includes a variety of presentations, tools, resources, and copies of her newsletter. Registration is required to access this website.

NCCN has updated their *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology* and/or *Drugs & Biologics Compendium* for adult cancer pain, cancer-related fatigue, and pancreatic adenocarcinoma.